



Approved For Release 2004/10/27 : CIA-RDP80M01048A000800310006-6

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

1 6 OCT 1974

Honorable William E. Colby
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Colby:

I am aware that your staff is in the process of acquiring comments upon a draft proposal to revitalize the USIB Watch mechanism, and wish to take the opportunity to give you the personal views that Lt Gen Graham and I have developed in our study of the draft. I intend to furnish copies of this memorandum to other USIB principals, as the thoughts that follow will form the basis of the DIA position to be taken at the 17 October meeting of the working group addressing the draft proposal.

The proposals regarding the manner in which the community should handle the non-Soviet, non-Chinese warning function have my complete concurrence. The function should depend upon the day-to-day activities of current intelligence resources within the major agencies, with the Alerting Memorandum a welcome addition to the family of community products. The NOIWON and NOIAN systems should be used to handle coordination in the community. In addition to participation in the initiating or coordination of the Alerting Memoranda, the DIA will continue to highlight warning type intelligence through our Special (red) Defense Intelligence Notices (DINs) and Warning Appraisals.

We would support the IC Staff in the move towards a precise definition of responsibilities for any community staff or committee established as the follow-on to the Watch Committee and the NIC. However, we are convinced that no such staff or committee need be established, and, on this question, take departure from the draft proposal to be addressed on the 17th. The DIA will suggest that both the Watch Committee and the National Indications Center (NIC) can be abolished and replaced

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by a small staff -- with CIA and NSA representation if desired -- located in the National Military Intelligence Center (NMIC). Such a staff can adequately focus upon indications and warning of overt military action by the USSR, the PRC and certain other Communist nations. It can produce a daily "temperature reading" assessment of the posture of these nations, including major out-of-area deployed forces. Such a "temperature reading" would incorporate the DIA Daily Indications Status Report (DISR), inputs from the North American Defense Command, and political inputs from CIA, coordinated with the State Department.

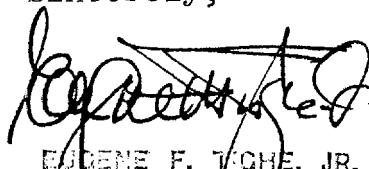
DIA would handle this function as your executive agent, with the DCI exercising day-by-day management by exception. Procedures would be established for other USIB principals also to note any non-concurrence by message. In your view, whenever the situation indicated, representatives from the involved NIO could take a direct part in preparation of the daily product; however, I would view this as a rare occurrence (Like a Cuban Crisis situation). To exercise your basic quality-control responsibilities, you may desire to establish a small, high-level overview group to judge pertinence and value of this warning product on the monthly basis.

The expected enhancement of future satellite collection capabilities will make the assignment of the "large W" task to the NMIC all the more suitable and efficient. Additionally, we are pursuing an ARPA/RCA research project into computer-aided measurement of USSR/PRC force posture, and will have such a capability ready for the modernized NMIC.

We would hate to see the Watch Officer Notes product disappear and recommend that we make the preparation of this report a daily exercise of the NOIWON net, with the net-control agency responsible for compiling inputs from the USIB Watch Officer Notes.

I look forward to the exchange of views on revitalizing the processes of warning intelligence, and particularly anticipate the day when we are in fact providing an unambiguous, timely product.

Sincerely,


EUGENE F. TIGHE, JR.
Lieutenant General, USAF
Acting Director

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Remarks:

For review and comment to DCI.

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